

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) and (b) As per the information provided by Delhi Police and Transport Department, Government of NCT of Delhi, no such directions were issued.

(c) No such data is available to substantiate that 40 per cent of the vehicles, which ply in Delhi are from neighbouring states.

(d) Does not arise.

Inadequate Medical facilities to security forces on IB

†2073. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the medical facilities being provided to the security forces deployed for protecting the borders of the country is being inadequate;

(b) whether it is also a fact that non-availability of such a facility to the personnel of the security forces particularly that of the Border Security Force (BSF) is causing a lot of resentment among them; and

(c) if not, the details of the medical facilities being provided to the personnel of the BSF deployed at the remote and far flung border-areas like that of Tripura?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) Medical facilities have been provided to the Border Guarding Forces (BGFs) as per the authorisation which is reviewed from time to time. All BSF battalions deployed on the International Border (IB), including those in Tripura, are having 10-bedded unit hospitals with adequate medical facilities alongwith an ambulance. A 50-bedded Composite Hospital is functioning at Agartala, that has a specialized Malaria Cell in view of its high incidence. All Border Out Posts (BOPs) in Tripura are sufficiently equipped with emergency medicines to diagnose, and provide first aid, in PF Malaria cases by use of Rapid Diagnostic Kits (RDK). Any case reported with high fever and suspected to be malaria is evacuated to the unit hospital at Battalion Headquarter for further treatment and management. The Unit medical officers posted in the BSF units are also visiting BOPs regularly.

Framing law or rules for protection of witnesses

2074. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 37 per cent people fear for severe harassment in going to witness box in courts with the result that the guilty/criminals are not being punished and are set free;

(b) whether Government proposes to frame any law or rules for protection of witnesses;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) to (d) Data in respect of reluctance of witnesses to testify on account of intimidation though highlighted off and on, is not maintained. The Law Commission of India in its 198th Report on 'Witness Identity Protection and Witness Protection Programme' has suggested comprehensive review of witness protection. Since, Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure are on the Concurrent List of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India this requires consultation with State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. The Report has been referred to all the State Government and Union Territories Administrator for their comments/views. No time frame can be fixed in this regard.

Pending cases of pension to freedom fighters

2075. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of pending cases for sanction of pension to the freedom fighters;
- (b) the proposals to sanction these pensions;
- (c) since many people have died and only a few are at the end of their lives, whether Government is taking any steps to speed up the process; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIK RAO GAVIT): (a) to (d) Receipt and disposal of applications for grant of freedom Fighters' pension is a continuing process. No record of applications, which are received directly from the applicants or without verification reports of the State Governments, is maintained. However, 256 applications, which have been received through the State Governments with their verification reports, were under process as on 29th February, 2008. In addition, 355 cases pertaining to Goa Liberation Movement (Phase-II) were also under process as on 29th February, 2008. Effects are made to dispose off such cases expeditiously.

Compulsory hoisting of national flag in educational institutes

†2076. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is considering to enact any law which would bind all educational institutes of the country to hoist National Flag on Independence day and Republic day;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, whether Government intends to bring such proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIK RAO GAVIT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government at present.

Sanctioned strength of state police forces

†2077. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the sanctioned strength of State Police forces in various States;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.